

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Review Item:

Interventions for schools and districts at risk

Applicable Statute(s) or Regulation(s):

P.L. 107-110

History/Background:

Existing Policy. Currently, the Kentucky Department of Education's (KDE) interventions into low-performing schools are limited to schools that fall in the "Assistance" category according to the Commonwealth Accountability Testing System (CATS). There are only 46 schools statewide in that category. There are no avenues for systemic intervention in schools with significant achievement gaps or at the district level.

At the October Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) meeting, KDE staff proposed amendments to state regulations to achieve a more aggressive and broader intervention program; however, staff now believes this process would require statute changes and may not have the timely impact that the Kentucky Board of Education desires.

The revised proposal (attached) is based on leveraging the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) consequences that will take effect in September 2006. The proposed interventions that were presented in October, along with improvements suggested by KBE members, can be implemented through this federal consequence vehicle and without change to regulations and statutes.

Impact on Getting to Proficiency:

This initiative will allow unprecedented intervention and support for low-performing schools and districts and those with significant achievement gaps. For the first time there is the potential to have systemic improvement plans implemented with school, district, local board, and KDE personnel collaborating intensively for improved student performance.

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